

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-02 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

GSA-02 /134 W

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R 110902Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7533

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 4353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ID

SUBJ: COMMODITY TRADE: PEPPER

REF: JAKARTA 3839

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 1 THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
ANNOUNCED THAT INDONESIA WILL COOPERATE WITH MALAYSIA
AND INDIA IN PEPPER PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH.
END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING MEETING OF CABINET-LEVEL ECONOMIC
STABILIZATION COUNCIL 1 APRIL INFORMATION MINISTER
MASJURI ANNOUNCED COUNCIL APPROVED INDONESIA
COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA AND INDIA IN PEPPER
MARKETING AND PRODUCTION, WITH EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH.
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HE ADDED THAT INDONESIA PRODUCES CIRCA 31,000 TONS OF

PEPPER ANNUALLY, OF WHICH IN 1974 17,900 WENT TO
US AND 6,100 TO EUROPE.

3. TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMS US THAT RECENT
DECISION WAS TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF ASIAN PEPPER COMMUNITY
FORMED IN 1971 UNDER ESCAP AUSPICES. COMMUNITY IS NOT
FUNCTIONAL, HE EXPLAINED; TEMPORARY SECRETARIAT OPERATES
OUT OF ESCAP BANGKOK. INITIAL THRUST OF PROGRAM ON
WHICH INDONESIA IS EMBARKING WITH INDIA AND
MALAYSIA WILL BE RESEARCH IN PROCESSING, SPECIFICALLY
PRODUCTION OF PEPPER OIL, AS MEANS OF MAXIMIZING LOCAL
VALUE ADDED. EVENTUAL HOPE IS THAT PEPPER COMMUNITY
WILL DEVELOP ALONG LINES OF COCONUT COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT: INDONESIA IS TRYING BY A VARIETY OF
MEANS, ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, TO IMPROVE RETURNS FROM
COMMODITY EXPORTS. FOLLOWING MARCH MEETING OF EXPERTS
FROM RUBBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES, FOREIGN TRADE DIRGEN
SUHADI MANGKUSUWONDO TOLD NEWSMEN INDONESIA WOULD JOIN
WITH OTHER PRODUCERS IN PROGRAM LAUNCHED BY MALAYSIAN
GOVERNMENT TO STABILIZE NATURAL RUBBER PRICES
THROUGH BUFFER STOCK SCHEME. GOI IS CONSIDERING ADHERENCE
TO BAUXITE ASSOCIATION, AN APPROACH WE UNDERSTAND
AUSTRALIAN DPM CAIRNS ENCOURAGED DURING HIS RECENT
VISIT (REFERENCE), WHEN HE ALLEGEDLY OBSERVED TO
MINING MINISTER SADLI THAT IT MADE SENSE FOR INDONESIA
TO BELONG. GOI ALSO LOOKING AT POSSIBILITY OF
MEMBERSHIP IN CIPEC (COPPER). PRIVATE ASSOCIATION OF
INDONESIAN TIMBER EXPORTERS HAS UNDERTAKEN CONSULTATION
WITH MALAYSIAN AND PHILIPPINE COUNTERPARTS AND WITH
BUYERS IN JAPAN WITH VIEW TO BETTER MARKET FORECASTING
AND SUPPLY/DEMAND ALIGNMENT WITH POTENTIAL BENEFITS
TO BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. INDONESIA
ALREADY A MEMBER OF ITC (TIN) AND OPEC. IN
NONE OF THESE HAS INDONESIA STOOD FOR EXTREME PRODUCER
POWER TACTICS. EMPHASIS CONTINUES ON CIRCUMSCRIBED
PRODUCER COOPERATION IN CONSULTATION WITH CONSUMERS.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, RESEARCH, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FLAVORINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART04353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-0342
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750459/aaaaccko.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 3839
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 SEP 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMODITY TRADE: PEPPER
TAGS: ETRD, ID, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006